

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 4, 8, 12, 15 and 19 being independent. Claims 1, 4, 8, 12, 15 and 19 have been amended, and new claims 29-32 have been added. Specifically, each of claims 1 and 12 has been amended to recite "a sealing substrate positioned over the film containing fluoroplastics with a space interposed therebetween" and "wherein the sealing substrate is bonded to the substrate by a sealant so that the light-emitting device, the inorganic insulating film and the film containing fluoroplastics are encapsulated." Each of claims 4 and 15 has been amended to recite "wherein the sealing substrate is bonded to the substrate by a sealant so that the light-emitting device, the inorganic insulating film, the organic insulating film and the film containing fluoroplastics are encapsulated." Each of claims 8 and 19 has been amended to recite "wherein the sealing substrate is bonded to the substrate by a sealant so that the light-emitting device, the first inorganic insulating film, the organic insulating film, the second inorganic insulating film and the film containing fluoroplastics are encapsulated." Support for the new claims and the amendments may be found in the application, for example, at page 16, lines 3-22 and at Fig. 4B. As described in the application, the reliability of a light emitting apparatus having the recited structure is significantly increased due to the structure preventing the penetration of moisture or gas into the light-emitting device.

Claims 1-28 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Yamazaki (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0055841) in view of Haskal (U.S. Patent No. 5,952,778).

Each of independent claims 1 and 12, as amended, recites a sealing substrate positioned over a film containing fluoroplastics with a space interposed therebetween. The sealing substrate is bonded to the substrate by a sealant so that the light-emitting device, the inorganic insulating film, the organic insulating film and the film containing fluoroplastics are encapsulated. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 12, and their dependent claims, because neither Yamazaki, Haskal, nor any combination of the two describes or suggests the recited sealing substrate.

Yamazaki describes a light emitting device that includes a cover material 1001, which the Examiner equates to the recited fluoroplastic film. As acknowledged by the Examiner on page 3

of the Office Action, Yamazaki does not describe or suggest a sealing substrate positioned over a film containing fluoroelastomers. The Examiner relies on Haskal to cure this deficiency of Yamazaki.

Haskal describes an organic light emitting device that includes a three layer protective covering 10. The three layer protective covering 10 includes a third layer 16 having a hydrophobic polymer, which the Examiner apparently equates to the recited fluoroelastomer film. Haskal states "optionally, a layer of glass or metal can be formed over the polymer layer for impact resistance." The Examiner is apparently equating this optional glass or metal layer formed over the third layer 16 with the recited sealing substrate. Notably, Haskal does not describe or suggest that, if such a layer of glass or metal were formed over the polymer layer, a space would be interposed between the glass or metal layer and the polymer layer. The Examiner then asserts that a person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Yamazaki's light emitting device to incorporate this "sealing substrate" of Haskal over the cover material of 1001 of Yamazaki "in order to provide improved protection for the light emitting portion of the apparatus." See page 3 of the Office Action.

Even if a person of ordinary skill in the art would have been led to modify Yamazaki in the manner the Examiner contends is suggested by Haskal, which applicants do not concede, the resulting structure would not include a sealing substrate positioned over a layer containing fluoroelastomers and having a space interposed therebetween, and that is bonded to a substrate by a sealant such that the recited light-emitting device, inorganic insulating film, organic insulating film and film containing fluoroelastomers are encapsulated. Rather, the resulting structure would arguably be Yamazaki's device as shown in Fig. 8b of Yamazaki with an additional glass or metal layer formed directly over and in contact with the cover material 1001. Accordingly, a space would not be interposed between the glass or metal layer and the cover material 1001, and the bonding of the glass or metal layer to the cover material 1001 would not result in the encapsulation of Yamazaki's EL elements and organic/inorganic insulating films (which were previously encapsulated by a first sealer 1002 and a sealing medium 1007).

For at least these reasons, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 12, and their dependent claims 2, 3, 13, 14, 23 and 26.

Each of independent claims 4 and 15, as amended, recites a sealing substrate that is bonded to the recited substrate by a sealant so that the light-emitting device, the inorganic insulating film, the organic insulating film and the film containing fluoroplastics are encapsulated. For at least the reasons described above, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4 and 15, and their dependent claims 5-7, 16-18, 24 and 27, because neither Yamazaki, Haskal, nor any combination of the two describes or suggests the recited sealing substrate.

Each of independent claims 8 and 19, as amended, recites a sealing substrate that is bonded to the recited substrate by a sealant so that the light-emitting device, the first inorganic insulating film, the organic insulating film, the second inorganic insulating film and the film containing fluoroplastics are encapsulated. For at least the reasons described above, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8 and 19, and their dependent claims 9-11, 20-22, 25 and 28, because neither Yamazaki, Haskal, nor any combination of the two describes or suggests the recited sealing substrate.

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicants do not acquiesce in the Examiner's characterizations of the art. For brevity and to advance prosecution, however, applicants may have not addressed all characterizations of the art and reserve the right to do so in further prosecution of this or a subsequent application. The absence of an explicit response by the applicants to any of the Examiner's positions does not constitute a concession of the Examiner's positions. The fact that applicants' comments have focused on particular arguments does not constitute a concession that there are not other arguments for patentability of the claims. All of the dependent claims are patentable for at least the reasons given with respect to the claims on which they depend.

The fee in the amount of \$120 in payment for the Petition for One-Month Extension of Time fee is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

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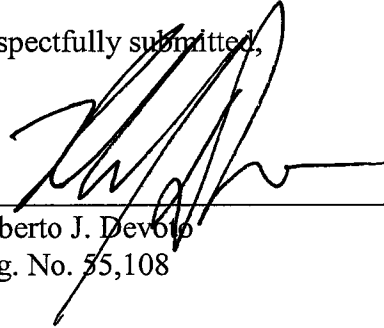
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Respectfully submitted,



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